Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

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All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
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Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending May 31, 2013

This is the final edition of the Cattle Market Update for the spring of 2013.
Monthly updates will be prepared during the week of July 2 and August 6.
The regular weekly report will resume on August 19, 2012.

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight ($/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

Steers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	-	-	-
400-500	135-152	145.38	-1.29
500-600	135-154	142.75	-3.45
600-700	128-149	139.20	-0.93
700-800	122-137	131.00	-1.75
800-900	117-125	119.85	+1.28
900+	107-121	113.50	+0.56

Heifers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	111-134	124.67	-1.83
400-500	120-137	130.63	-2.54
500-600	118-138	127.50	-0.37
600-700	113-131	123.00	-1.00
700-800	108-126	117.13	-0.50
800+	100-112	107.13	-3.37

Source: Canfax.
Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week.

Canfax reported that 6,084 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up from 4,078 head marketed during the previous week.

Feeder cattle prices were mixed over the week. Feeder steers over 800 lb. traded higher while all other classes below 800 lb. were lower. Average prices for feeder steers ranged from $1.28 per cwt higher to $3.45 per cwt lower.

Feeder heifers traded lower in all classes, ranging from $0.37 per cwt to $3.37 per cwt lower on the week. The heavy weight feeder heifers over 800 lb. had the largest decrease over the week declining $3.37 per cwt.

The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the May 30, 2013 U.S. feeder cattle index at US$130.81 per cwt was calculated at -$6.37 per cwt (US$130.81/0.9645 - $129.25), a basis weakening of $1.47 per cwt from -$4.90 per cwt the previous week.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	May 31	May 24	Change
Cows (Alberta)			
D1,2 Live	76.40	79.33	-2.93
D3 Live	68.00	70.00	-2.00
Rail	149.00-154.00	151.00-156.00	-2.00

Source: Canfax.

Prices for liveweight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were lower from the previous week with D1,2 slaughter cows decreasing $2.93 per cwt to average $76.40 per cwt, while D3 slaughter cows decreased $2.00 per cwt to average $68.00 per cwt. Canfax reported that Western Canadian non-fed slaughter numbers were affected by restricted kill levels at the Brooks plant in Alberta.

Fed cattle prices in Western Canada established new record high prices over the week with the price of fed steers in Alberta reported at $121.90, up $2.62 per cwt from $119.28 per cwt the previous week. Improved demand with continued tight cattle supplies helped fed cattle prices push higher.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at US$124.64 per cwt, down slightly from US$124.75 per cwt the previous week. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US$199.38 per cwt, unchanged from US$199.39 per cwt the previous week.

The weekly average Choice beef cutout values (Choice 600-900 lb.) for the week ending May 31 averaged US$208.32 per cwt, down 1.0 per cent from US$210.47 per cwt. the previous week. The weekly average Choice cutout values declined as expected after the Memorial Day holiday in the United States. Cutout values have now been above the psychologically important US$200 per cwt threshold for four weeks.

U.S. beef production for the shorter United States Memorial Day holiday week ending May 31 was estimated at 462.0 million lb., down 8.3 per cent from 504.0 million lb. during the previous week, and down 1.7 per cent from 469.9 million lb. a year ago. U.S. weekly cattle slaughter numbers totaled 549,000 head, down 15.3 per cent from 648,000 head the previous week, and down 8.2 per cent from 598,000 head the same week a year ago.

Weekly corn cash prices were mixed over the week while corn futures were noticeably higher. Corn futures for the September and December contracts increased over 30 cents per bushel, week-over-week. Concerns over wet areas in the United States that may not get planted which would result in less corn planted helped fall and winter corn futures move higher.

Feeder cattle futures contracts edged lower over the week with the May to November feeder future contracts decreasing from US$0.100 per cwt to US$0.400 per cwt, week-over-week.

Live cattle futures contracts moved higher with the June to December contracts increasing from US$0.725 per cwt to US$1.225 per cwt, week-over-week. Strong beef cutout values from seasonally improved demand likely helped live cattle futures prices move higher.

Friday Price Information

Product		This Week (May 31)	Week of: (May 24)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US$)		.9645	.9689
United States Dollar Index		83.282	83.640
U.S. Cash Cattle			
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US$ per cwt)		130.81	131.67
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)		784	777
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US$ per cwt)		124.64	124.75
Feed Grains			
Barley	Lethbridge ($/tonne)	296.00	297.00
	($ per bu.)	6.44	6.47
Corn	Iowa State Average (CDN$/tonne)*	288.17	284.83
	(US$ per bu.)	7.06	7.01
	Omaha, NE (CDN$/tonne)*	293.88	296.61
	(US$ per bu.)	7.20	7.30
Futures			
	July Corn (US$ per bu.)	6.62	6.57¼
	Sept. Corn (US$ per bu.)	5.97¼	5.66¾
	June Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	121.300	120.575
	August Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	120.450	119.225
	Aug Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	144.325	144.550
	October Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	148.125	148.525

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News
* conversion to CDN$ is based on Friday's CDN$ closing rate

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